

In the Claims

1. (previously presented) An improved method of forming an even surface on a building, wherein the method is especially suited for reducing the labor requirements of applying a concrete-based mortar to the building, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

 mixing a concrete-based mortar with water and a quantity of accelerant sufficient to cause the resulting composition to set in approximately two hours;

 applying the concrete-based mortar to a concrete surface to form a mortar surface; and

 removing an exterior portion of the mortar surface after approximately two hours so that the mortar surface has hardened sufficient to prevent removal of sub-surface, concrete-based mortar.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar having particles greater than 0.18 millimeters in diameter and a lesser portion of particles greater than 1.2 millimeters in diameter, and wherein the step

of removing the exterior portion of the mortar surface comprises removing the particles greater than 1.2 millimeters in diameter from the exterior portion of the mortar surface without removing the particles greater than 1.2 millimeters in diameter from the sub-surface portion of the mortar surface.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar further comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar with the accelerant having inorganic salts and halogens.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar further comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar with the accelerant having chloride ions.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the concrete-based mortar comprises using a smooth trowel to apply the concrete-based mortar to a block wall.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of removing the exterior portion of the mortar surface comprises scraping a rough trowel against the exterior portion of the mortar surface.

7. (previously presented) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, an accelerant and water to form a resulting composition that sets within three hours;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

allowing the resulting composition to set on the building for a period of at least two hours, wherein the resulting composition sufficiently hardens to prevent reformation and to prevent scoring lines; and

removing an exterior portion of the resulting composition, wherein the time from applying the resulting composition to removing the exterior portion of the resulting composition does not exceed three hours.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar comprises mixing a powder.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the accelerant at least partially composed of inorganic salts.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the accelerant further composed of halogens.

11. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of applying the resulting composition to the building comprises spreading the resulting composition onto a concrete block wall with a smooth trowel.

12. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of removing the exterior portion of the resulting composition comprises scraping a rough trowel against the exterior portion of the resulting composition.

13. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein:

the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar comprises mixing a powder, and the accelerant composed of inorganic salts and halogens;

the step of applying the resulting composition to the exterior of the building comprises spreading the resulting composition onto a concrete block wall with a smooth trowel; and

the step of removing the exterior portion of the resulting composition comprises scraping a rough trowel against the exterior portion of the resulting composition.

14. (withdrawn by Examiner)

15. (withdrawn by Examiner)

16. (withdrawn by Examiner)

17. (withdrawn by Examiner)

18. (withdrawn by Examiner)

19. (withdrawn by Examiner)

20. (withdrawn by Examiner)

21. (previously presented) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, an accelerant and water to form a resulting composition that hardens in approximately three hours time or less;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

allowing the resulting composition to harden on the building for a time sufficient to prevent reformation of the composition; and

removing an exterior skin of the resulting composition after the step of allowing the resulting composition to set.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of mixing a concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar having particles approximately 1 millimeter or greater in diameter.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of removing an exterior skin comprises scraping a rough trowel against the resulting composition to remove at least a portion of the particles approximately 1 millimeter or greater in diameter from the exterior skin but without removing subcutaneous mortar or particles.

24. (previously presented) The method of 7, wherein in the step of allowing the resulting composition to set, the resulting

composition sufficiently hardens to prevent the formation of impressions and to prevent the formation of patterns.

25. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of removing the exterior skin of the resulting composition comprises scraping a rough trowel against the resulting composition to remove only the exterior skin, wherein the resulting composition has hardened sufficient to prevent uneven scraping and has hardened sufficient to prevent sticking to the rough trowel, and wherein the resulting composition has a smooth and even surface after the step of removing the exterior skin.

26. (new) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, an accelerant and water to form a resulting composition that hardens in approximately three hours time or less;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;